

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 AID-20 MC-02

EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /110 W

----- 049363

R 251408 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECDEF WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4205

DIVENGR USAEDM LEGHORN IT// MDDVE//

COE RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2635

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: MODA REQUEST FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

REF: A. JIDDA 2443 B. STATE 119102 C. DISTENGR IRYADH DTG 211014 Z
JUNE 73 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH DOD HAS RESEARCHED VEHICLE PROBLEM. IN 20 JUNE MEETING BETWEEN AMB AND PRINCE SULTAN, SULTAN INDICATED DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE ON STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED ONLY THAT MORNING. HE CITED ONE OR TWO ALLEGATIONS OF STAFF CONCERNING PRINCE AND AVAILABILITY AND STATED THAT IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS IT WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION SHOULD HE GO TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH RECOMMENDATION TO GO AHEAD WITH VEHICLE PURCHASE. TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS , SULTAN REQUESTED THAT SUSPENSE DATES FOR SALES CASES UIZ, UIL, UIM, AND PARTICULARLY UIK (WHICH EXPIRES 6/29) BE EXTENDED TO 31 JULY. EMBASSY URGES FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

2. TO REFUTE STAFF ASSERTION THAT REBUILT VEHICLES COST MORE NOW THAN NEW VEHICLES DID WHEN ORIGINALLY PURCHASED, EMBASSY

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AND COE RIYADH HAVE DRAWN UP TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE COSTS OF NEW AND REBUILT VEHICLES AND WE BELIEVE WE CAN LAY THIS ERRONEOUS ARGUEMENT TO REST. AMBASSADOR WILL SEE SULTAN AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY AND WILL URGE FAVORABLE ACTION ON PENDING SALES CASES.

THHACHER

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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